



Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

News Release

District 1: Fulton Brock District 2: Don Stapley District 3: Andy Kunasek

District 4: Max Wilson, Chairman

District 5: Mary Rose Wilcox

Office of Communications

301 West Jefferson Street
10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003-2143
Phone: 602-506-7063
Fax: 602-506-4125
www.maricopa.gov

Al Macias, Communications Director

For additional information:

Deanne Poulos, Press Secretary

(602) 506-7232

(602) 525-3211 (cell)

May 4, 2005

Note: This is an advisory about a groundbreaking inter-governmental collaboration spearheaded by Supervisor Stapley. We'll keep you apprised as this project progresses and formal decisions are made.

Maricopa County Supervisor Don Stapley and Commission on the Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) hold public meeting

The Committee

Maricopa County Supervisor Don Stapley has formed a commission to address the issue of the Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI). He serves as chair of the committee, while fellow supervisor Andy Kunasek serves as Vice-Chair. Committee members include Secretary of State Jan Brewer, Senator Carolyn Allen, Lindy Funkhouser, David Hendershott and Judge Barbara Mundell. (Supervisor Kunasek also chairs a special sub-committee that works with Governor Napolitano.)

The Objective

It is one of Supervisor Stapley's objectives to remove the seriously mentally ill population from the overcrowded county jails and transfer them to treatment programs. Of the 9,000 inmates in the county jail system, 23% are mentally ill. Existing pilot programs around country have indicated that with proper treatment programs, the mentally ill can stay out of jail and function in society.

May 5th Meeting

The full committee will hold a public meeting **Thursday, May 5, 2005 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Secretary of State's Conference Room, 1700 W. Washington, 7th floor.**

Parking available in the corner lot at Jefferson and 19th Avenue.

Supervisor Stapley will report on what he learned upon touring the Orange County, California jail earlier this week. Orange County is comparable in size to Maricopa, which is why their program can serve as a model. Maricopa is also studying programs in other California counties, as well as in Florida.

Also on the agenda for the May 5th meeting, Supervisor Stapley will discuss the National Association of Counties (NACo) Prescription Drug Discount Card Program.

###